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Monkseaton Language College's contribution to the success of the Innovation Trust

Monkseaton Language College has led many innovation partnerships with schools, universities and business over the last 12 years. The school believes that working with others in wider society is of great benefit to all parties when based on mutual benefit. For example, the school has worked closely with Microsoft, The Open University, BBC, and other national organisations and businesses. It has done so within different frameworks such as those of the Department for Education and Skills, European Commission, Independent Television Commission and others. Monkseaton believes that the Innovation Trust, a formal charitable trust, allows the school to build on this expertise to the benefit of its partners, its students and other young people. The Trust also creates a framework that allows the school to develop a coherent, long term partnership for innovation.

Monkseaton Language College has had remarkable success with projects, achieving challenging targets, keeping within budget and attracting very positive publicity. There are many formal testaments to Monkseaton's innovations, such as The European Commission's Telematics Application Programme's *101 Success Stories*, The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's *Innovative Schools*, and a number of DfES publications over the years. More important is its impact on others: more schools and students in England benefit from innovations developed at Monkseaton than those from any other school. For example, there are over 200 secondary schools taking advantage of The Open University's Young Applicants in Schools and Colleges Scheme, and over 1,200 primary schools including 16 Local Authorities using its Complete Course in primary modern foreign languages.

Monkseaton pledges to contribute the following resources and expertise to support the development of the Innovation Trust at Monkseaton and to ensure it is able to achieve the ambitious goals established for the Trust.

- Staff expertise in informatics: Monkseaton has a sophisticated approach to developing the Learning Gateway and other Microsoft software. Using the expertise developed in research projects combined with the use of software to support learning, Monkseaton will make every effort to develop an informatics solution that will have important implications for other schools and the applications of software to education.

- Monkseaton will share data about its students and its own activities within the context of ethical research practices currently used in the Higher Educational sectors through an informatics management system that ensures total confidentiality.
- Monkseaton will share its innovations as widely as possible, working closely with the Trust to ensure they are better, cheaper and faster than other methods of improving learning, supporting young people, or helping staff.
- Monkseaton will contribute educational and project management expertise in order to make the Innovation Trust maximizes the benefits for all partners. Specifically, it supports the Innovation Trust by having Paul Kelley as its Chief Executive Officer. Additionally, specialist staff will manage the practical applications of Innovation within the school.
- Monkseaton will offer direct access to its partners to its planning and development, particularly of the new school building, in order to benefit from their expertise.
- Monkseaton will contribute, as appropriate, in publicity about its work as part of a strategy of share knowledge and innovation

Monkseaton is committed to developing a rigorous innovation process based on the best research and development models in other sectors. It accepts that such an innovation process will not always succeed in specific areas, and that there may be challenges that are hard to overcome. However, in light of the benefits to its students and others of innovation, it believes the Innovation Trust will offer a powerful mechanism to improve and extend innovations in the best interests of its students, staff, partners and others.

Steven Fawkes – Chair of Governors

Steven Fawkes is by background a teacher of Languages, having worked in Comprehensive and Special Schools in the North East before taking up a position in BBC Learning as Education Officer and subsequently Policy Adviser. In those roles Steven advised on pedagogy and creative content, as well as on policy developments relating to the full scope of education in schools. He also managed an award winning online resource for Japanese, and developed a BBC Learning strategy for Inclusion. Alongside this Steven has held several voluntary posts within the Association for Language Learning, an educational charity, as President and Trustee; he contributes regularly to conferences and publications on Language issues, and is an author of resources for teachers and learners.

Paul Kelley - Headteacher

Paul Kelley is currently Headteacher of Monkseaton Language College. He was one of the earliest graduates of the Open University. He has contributed to education as a nursery organiser, teacher, university tutor, Chief Education Officer, Project Coordinator for the European Commission, DfES, and others, examiner, media commentator, researcher, and author of books and

educational software. He is best known for educational innovation, working with Microsoft, The Open University, Independent Television Commission, BBC and others to change the nature of learning in schools.

Paul has consistently challenged conventional thinking. He has been involved in controversies- notably to do with university admissions- and in his recent book *Making Minds* questions the underlying assumptions of the education system itself. He initiated The Open University's Young Applicants in Schools Scheme with The Open University in the North, an innovation now offering undergraduate courses to students aged 16-18 throughout the UK. He is married with four children, and lives in Whitley Bay.



Dr Paul Kelley
Headteacher



Steven Fawkes
Chair of Governors